

Leek  
District



Urban  
Council.



# *JOINT REPORT*

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

ON THE

*Sanitary Condition of Leek,*

For the Year 1915.



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MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LEEK URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In placing before you my report for the year 1915 I have endeavoured to follow the suggestions drawn up by the Local Government Board.

VITAL STATISTICS.

*Births.*

The number of Births registered during the year was 327 which is 44 below the average for the preceding ten years, yielding a rate of 19·0 per 1,000. There were 8 still births during the year.

*Deaths.*

The total number of Deaths registered was 268 which is 20·1 more than the ten years' average, and yields a corrected death rate of 15·5 per 1,000.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

*Zymotic Class.*

The Zymotic Class of diseases is responsible for 24 deaths, the average for the previous ten years being

180; of these 1 each was due to Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, Chicken Pox, and Puerperal Fever; 2 each to Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas, 3 to Scarlet Fever, 4 to Influenza, and 8 to Diphtheria.

In all cases of infectious disease the premises have been promptly inspected, and careful investigation made to discover the source of infection, any sanitary defects discovered being remedied forthwith.

The local milk supply was free from suspicion in every instance.

During the year 196 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, the majority of these having been mild attacks. Three deaths have been attributed to this disease.

Thirty-two cases of Diphtheria have been notified, some of a malignant type, resulting in 8 deaths.

We keep a stock of Antitoxin for free distribution at the Sanitary Office, available for the use of Doctors for the cure and prevention of Diphtheria among the poor.

We continue to use and appreciate the facilities given by the County Council for the bacteriological examination in cases of suspected Diphtheria and Phthisis.

Phthisis has been responsible for 24 deaths, the average for the preceding ten years being 24.4.

During the year 37 cases of Pulmonary Phthisis have been notified, warnings and instructions with regard to spitting have been issued, and spitting flasks and a regular supply of disinfectants provided for patients.

Disinfection of premises is carried out in every case after death occurs.

*Local Diseases.*

In the class of Local Diseases the mortality from diseases of the brain and nervous system was 36, the average for ten years being 40·5; that from heart affections 34, the ten years' average being 38·5; that from diseases of the digestive organs 14, the average for ten years being 24·3; that from diseases of the respiratory organs 45, the ten years' average being 40·8; and that from malignant disease 22, the ten years average being 13·7.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT UNDER ARTICLE XX.

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During the year ended December, 1915, the following cases of Nuisance and other matters complained of were dealt with, comprising:—

	CASES
Defective or want of private drainage ... ..	18
Drains tested with smoke ... ..	6
Choked Sewers... ..	2
Defective Water-closets ... ..	12
Privies converted into Water-closets ... ..	9
Accumulation of offensive matter ... ..	17
Want of drain ventilation ... ..	5
Houses in a filthy condition ... ..	4
Nuisances arising from overcrowding ... ..	17
Defective water spouting ... ..	12
Defective roofs ... ..	6
Slaughter-house nuisance ... ..	3
Want of proper receptacle for stable manure ...	2
Offensive swill tubs ... ..	4
Want of proper ventilation ... ..	6
Want of proper paving in private yards attached to dwelling-houses ... ..	14
Want of proper privy or water-closet accommodation	9
Want of proper moveable receptacles for ashes ...	173
Number of houses disinfected ... ..	238
Number of schools disinfected ... ..	14
Number of infected articles, bedding, etc., disinfected	7702

A considerable number of nuisances were promptly abated on their being intimated to the persons responsible.

There are several unexpired notices of nuisance remaining on the books not yet complied with.

**REMOVAL OF ASHES AND NIGHTSOIL.**—The Scavenging Department removed 4366 loads of house ashes and garbage compared with 4252 during the preceding year, and 38 loads of nightsoil compared with 42 the preceding year. 468 loads of shop refuse compared with 469 the preceding year.

**COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.**—There are 4 houses registered under the Common Lodging-houses Acts for the reception of 111 casual lodgers.

**SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**—There are 7 premises situate at various points in the town licensed for occupation as Slaughter-houses.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—There are 23 Bakehouses within the district, all of which were inspected half-yearly, and at other times as occasion required.

**PETROLEUM STORES.**—There are 6 Licenses in force for the keeping and sale of Petroleum that flash under 73 degrees Farenheit's thermometer (the maximum quantity stored never to exceed 100 gallons) and 1 for the keeping and sale of Calcium Carbide. There are also 2 private storehouses for the keeping of Petroleum under the Home Secretary's order.

**GAS SUPPLY.**—The purity of the Gas supplied to the town was tested from time to time in the manner

required by the 34th and 35th Vic., chap. 41. No impurity arising from the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen was shown by the test made at the Town Hall during the year.

INTERMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN.—During the year ending December, 1915, 3 interments took place in the Burial Ground attached to St. Edward's Church, and 2 in the ground attached to Mount Pleasant Wesleyan Chapel. The provisions of the Orders in Council relating thereto were duly observed.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.—During the year ending December, 1915, no Canal Boats were inspected within the Urban Sanitary District of Leek.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER, 1885.—There are 47 persons registered under the above Order. 20 are Milk Shops, and the remainder Dairies and Cow-Sheds. There are 167 milch cows kept. All the said premises were inspected once during the year.

FRANK GREEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

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MILK SUPPLY.—The milk produced or sold in the town is generally of a good wholesome quality.

FOOD SUPPLY.—The food supply of the town is generally good.



**WATER SUPPLY.**—The water supply is sufficient, wholesome, and free from risk of serious pollution taking place within the district.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**—The new installation is working well and continues to give good results. The character of our crude sewage is of such unusual strength that the sprinklers cannot deal with a sufficient quantity; in order that this may be done we require a special settling tank and an increased number of sprinklers.

**EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.**—The system in vogue for the disposal of excrement is mainly the water-carriage system, the remaining privies being gradually replaced by wash-down closets, either hand-flushed or furnished with flushing apparatus. There are 69 privies now in existence in the district, 30 of which are in positions where no sewers are available in the outlying rural portions of the district.

**REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE.**—The removal of house refuse is accomplished by the public scavengers employed by the Council, who make weekly rounds to collect the contents of the movable receptacles; otherwise where ashpits exist these are emptied on notice being given to the Authority. There are now only 24 ashpits in existence (9 of which are emptied weekly). These are being abolished as quickly as possible.

The disposal of refuse consists in its being emptied on the "tip" at the sewage farm. It is covered with soil almost as it is tipped.

STATEMENT REGARDING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED  
BY ARTICLE V OF THE HOUSING (INSPECTION OF  
DISTRICT) REGULATIONS 1910.

The housing question may again be described as less acute than it was, but still existing as a long-drawn-out malady. Some gain has been accomplished by judicious exchanging of houses; but I cannot say the condition has yet been adequately dealt with. Scarcity of labour and material has also retarded progress in building.

The area known as "Getliffe's Yard," situate Court 5, Derby Street, was dealt with in 1914 by closing orders being made in respect to the houses therein, but a difficulty is being experienced in getting owners to receive the inhabitants of this area as tenants.

NUMBER OF DWELLING-HOUSES							
Inspected under and for the purpose of		on Inspection considered unfit for human habitation.	represented to Authority with view to Closing Order being made.	for which Closing Orders were made.	in which defects were remedied without Closing Order.	put in order after Closing Order had been made.	No. of defects dealt with under Public Health Acts.
Section 17	Public Health Acts.						
...	319	...	...	...	...	...	319

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The mortality for the year shows a decrease, the rate being 97·8 per 1000 births, as compared with 117·9 for the preceding 5 years.

*To the Medical Officer of Health for the Leek Urban  
District.*

During the last year, from January 1st to December 31st, 1915, 323 houses where births have occurred, have been visited. Of these births, two were twins, making a total of 325 infants. Eight of these were still-born, and of the remaining 317 living infants 149 were breast fed, 61 breast and bottle fed, and 105 were entirely bottle fed. Two died before any regular method of feeding was adopted.

In each house, cards giving hints on "Infant feeding" have been supplied, and in most cases these have been appreciated and the advice given therein carried out.

To the babies born this year I have made 2,537 return visits, making a total of 2,870, in order to note progress, to give further advice, and, where necessary, practical assistance.

The mothers of eighty of these infants returned to their work in the mills at the end of the first or second month, giving their babies out to nurses. These, I may say, are chosen by the mothers with more thoughtful discretion than formerly.

There have been nine cases of ophthalmia among the babies born this year. These have been visited three and four times daily, and in each case a perfectly satisfactory recovery resulted. In all cases the eyes are carefully noticed on my first visit and immediate treatment is given on the slightest sign of a suspicious nature, with, I believe, the full concurrence of all our medical

men. This in many cases has doubtless prevented further development.

There have been twenty-two illegitimate births. Of these one was still-born. The remaining twenty-one are living.

There have been twenty-two deaths among the babies born this year. The list is appended.

*Prematurity.*

- 1 at the age of a few hours.
- 1    ,,       ,,    two days—breast fed.
- 1    ,,       ,,    eight days—breast fed.

*Feeble from Birth.*

- 2 at the age of a few hours. (One a twin.)
- 2    ,,       ,,    seven days—one breast, one hand fed.
- 2    ,,       ,,    sixteen days—bottle fed. (One a twin.)
- 1    ,,       ,,    nine months—hand fed.
- 2    ,,       ,,    three months—one bottle, one breast fed.

*Gastritis and Convulsions.*

- 1 at the age of seven days—breast fed.
- 1    ,,       ,,    one month—bottle fed.

*Meningitis and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.*

- 1 at the age of six months—bottle fed.
- 1    ,,       ,,    one month—bottle fed.

*Whooping Cough and Broncho-Pneumonia.*

- 1 at the age of five months—breast and bottle fed.
- 1    ,,       ,,    ten months—bottle fed.

*Congenital Syphilis.*

- 1 at the age of three weeks—bottle fed.
- 1    ,,       ,,    two months—bottle fed.

*Suddenly.*

1 at the age of six weeks—breast and bottle fed,  
 1     ,,           ,,     seven weeks—breast fed.

In accordance with the scheme for extending the period of supervision, 304 houses in which there are children under five have been periodically visited. This has entailed 3,930 further visits. Advice as to diet, clothing, fresh air, etc., has been given, and in needful cases special treatment suggested, and, where necessary, medical attention recommended.

This branch of the work is at present hampered by the withholding of the grant enabling us to supply milk, cod liver oil, etc., but when normal conditions return, we hope this may be remedied as it is doubtless an important factor in obtaining substantial results.

I find a large percentage of the children are sent to school at the age of four, and far too many at the age of three.

Since September, when the midwives were supplied with forms for notifying the names and addresses of expectant mothers, I have received 66 such notifications.\* I have visited these women and have found them for the most part appreciative of advice and anxious for information regarding their individual difficulties. Unfortunately these cases are not notified until late in the period of their pregnancy.

L. HALL,

Health Visitor.

\* These notifications are only used when the consent of the mothers has been obtained.

“TABLE I.”—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Mean Age at Death : Males, 44·9 years ; Females, 47·2 ; Persons, 46·2.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-Residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Num-ber.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	16682	358	...	21'4	274	16'4	9	3	42	120'1	268	16'0
1911	16710	365	...	21'7	269	16'0	13	6	44	120'5	262	15'6
1912	16757	342	341	20'3	282	16'8	11	8	28	87'9	279	16'6
1913	16945	331	327	19'2	280	16'5	18	12	52	155'9	274	16'1
1914	17073	343	342	20'0	247	14'4	18	7	36	105'2	236	13'8
1915	17202	327	327	19'0	269	15'5	10	9	32	97'8	268	15'5

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... .. } 1460.

Total population at all ages ... 16665  
 Number of Inhabited Houses ... 3796  
 Average number of Persons per House ... 4·39  
 } At Census of 1911.

"TABLE II."  
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING  
THE YEAR 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								Cases Removed to Leek Isola- tion Hospital.
	At All Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Variola ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ...	32	...	9	19	2	1	1	..	14
Erysipelas ...	15	...	...	2	5	1	6	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	196	6	29	131	27	2	1	...	187
Phthisis { (a) Under Tuber- culosis Regu- lations, 1908.	37	...	...	5	5	17	8	2	...
(b) Ditto 1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Others ..	8	...	...	4	3	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	296	12	38	161	42	23	16	4	201

Percentage of Total Removals to Hospital ... ..  
Diphtheria, 43·7. Scarlet Fever, 96·4.

#### LEEK URBAN DISTRICT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Situate Ashbourne Road, in Leek Urban Area. 18 beds, 3 diseases can be treated concurrently.

Number of Patients in Hospital, January 1st, 1915	...	...	12
do. do. admitted during the year	...	...	202*
do. do. discharged do.	..	...	182
do. do. died do.	...	...	3
do. do. in Hospital, December 31st, 1915	...	...	29

\* Including 4 cases of Scarlet Fever and 4 cases of Diphtheria admitted from the Leek Rural District.

The average duration in hospital of each patient discharged or died was 44·6 days.

No Phthisis Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation is provided, nor any Dispensary.

"TABLE III."

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH.  I	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.  II
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 Year. 3	1 and under 2 years. 4	2 and under 5 years. 5	5 and under 15 years. 6	15 and under 25 years. 7	25 and under 45 years. 8	45 and under 65 years. 9	65 and upwards. 10	
All causes { Certified... Uncertified	268 ...	32 ...	4 ...	10 ...	19 ...	7 ...	36 ...	64 ...	96 ...	39 ...
Measles ... ..	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	8	...	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping-cough ... ..	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	2
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	24	...	...	1	1	5	10	6	1	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	22	...	...	...	1	...	1	13	7	1
Meningitis ... ..	31	...	1	1	2	...	2	9	16	5
Organic Heart Disease	34	1	...	...	2	...	4	12	15	7
Bronchitis ... ..	26	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	18	2
Pneumonia (all forms).	18	5	...	1	...	...	4	6	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	4	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ... ..	7	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, in- cluding Premature Birth ... ..	17	16	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths, exclu- ding Suicide ... ..	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Suicide ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	54	7	2	...	2	...	7	5	30	10
	268	32	4	10	19	7	36	64	96	39







ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health,  
FOR THE YEAR 1915,  
FOR THE  
URBAN DISTRICT OF LEEK,  
ON THE  
Administration of the Factory and  
Workshop Act, 1901, in connection  
with Factories, Workshops, Laund-  
ries, Workplaces, and Homework

## 1.—INSPECTION.

### INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR OR INSPECTOR OF NUISANCE.

Premises.  I	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
	2	3	4
FACTORIES ... .. (Including Factory Laundries) ...	24	...	...
WORKSHOPS ... .. (Including Workshops Laundries)	27	2	...
WORKPLACES .. ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises mentioned in Part 3 of this report)	13	...	...
	64	2	...

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.  I	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.  5
	Found.  2	Remedied.  3	Referred to H.M. Inspector.  4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	3	3	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Sanitary Accommodation :—</i>				
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	44	...	..	...
Not Separate for Sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	47	3	...	...

### 3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK. *	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.							
	Lists received from Employers.				Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.		Prosecutions.	
	Sending twice in the Year.		Sending once in the Year.		Con-tractors men.	Work-men.	Failing to keep or per-mit inspec-tion of lists.	Failing to send lists.
	Lists.	Outworkers.	Con-tractors men.	Lists.				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing Apparel—	...	...	...	2	...	91	...	...
(1) Making, &c	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(2) Cleaning & washing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								(11)

### 3.—HOME WORK, *continued.*

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.		
Instances.	Notices served.	Pro-secutions.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110.)	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).
(12)		(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...

## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 181) at the end of the year.	Number.
I	2
Dressmakers, Tailors, Milliners, and Hosiery Establishments...	70
Bakehouses ... ..	23
Cabinet Makers, Joiners, Carriage Builders, Wheelwrights, and Woodcarvers ... ..	29
Boot, Shoe, and Clog Repairers ... ..	16
Blacksmiths, Cycle Repairers, Tinsmiths and Plumbers ...	20
Saddlers, Coopers, Painters, Sculptors, Timber Yards ...	7
Basket Makers, Rope Walks, Whiplash Making ... ..	4
Cardboard Box Making, Silk Balling, Silk Warehouses...	20
Trimming Warehouse, Fire Lighting Shop... ..	2
Total Number of Workshops in Leek ... ..	191

One Underground Bakehouse in use at end of year

## 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS. (1)	NUMBER. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133) ... ..	...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector, remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) { Notified by H.M. Inspector ... .. Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	4 4
Other ... ..	...
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year... ..	...
In use at the end of the year ... ..	1

J. MOUNTFORT JOHNSON, M.D.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

